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Finance Committee Minutes 03-24-2001

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING, March 24, 2001

9:00 AM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING

ATTENDEES:

Phelps	Feinleib	Kocur*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey	Villandry*	Simmons*	Mazmanian*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Scoppettuolo*	Franclemont*		Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi*	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

MINUTES of 3/21/01 accepted as printed.

BUDGET SPREAD SHEET: The Chair provided an update handout showing a deficit of \$2.4m.

BUDGET 4 PERSONNEL: Personnel SubCom (O'Neill) recommended the budget as requested. He announced that John Dunlap is leaving for a bigger job in Brookline.

VOTED \$131524 Unanimous.

BUDGET 16 PUBLIC WORKS: Public Works SubCom (Olsen), using a handout, recommended a substantial reduction in the curbside collection increase. He announced that the \$2m scrubber grant from the State would be spent over the remaining 4 yrs of the NESWC contract thus offsetting the tip rate increase. He recommended holding \$20k that had been earmarked for increased staff for field maintenance until the final tradeoff. He suggested that the snow & ice budget is unrealistic. It should be 3x larger to cover an average winter.

VOTED \$667,128 Unanimous.

WATER & SEWER EP: Expected to be about \$11.4m. No vote taken pending State charges.

BUDGET 25 INSURANCE: Finances SubCom (Foskett) explained that the \$2m Municipal Building Trust Fund, which was established to anticipate real estate insurance rate increases many years ago, is no longer as important for that purpose. The Manager recommended using part of the interest, \$47k, to offset the indemnity insurance budget. Deyst recommended funding this budget (\$143k) entirely from this source. He also requested the Chair to highlight health insurance cost in his budget statement to TM.

VOTED to fund the indemnity insurance line item from the Municipal Building Trust Fund for a net insurance budget of \$9165560. Unanimous.

BUDGET 23 CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT:

VOTED \$4,920,383 after W&S offset. Unanimous.

BUDGET 20 LIBRARY: Library/Human Services SubCom (Scoppettuolo), using a handout, discussed requested increases. He recommended holding increases totaling \$17115 in overtime, pages, and part of the utility increase for final tradeoffs.

VOTED \$1,534,379. Unanimous.

BUDGET 21 HUMAN SERVICES: Library/Human Services (Scoppettuolo) presented the sub-budgets w/ some adjustments.

ADMIN: VOTED \$99,834. Unanimous

BOH: VOTED \$158177 which includes a retirement & replacement at lesser salary. Unanimous.

COA: SubCom to verify salaries. VOTED \$145,672 which includes senior work project. Unanimous

VETERANS: Caseload may increase due to State regulation change. VOTED to reduce Veterans Aid line item by \$25k. 14-3. VOTED \$189,580 16-1.

RECREATION EF VOTED Expense \$279,724-Revenue \$285,853=-\$6,129. Unanimous

BUDGET 17 PUBLIC SAFETY: The Public Safety SubCom (Simmons) described the changes planned for Police which involve adding 5 patrolmen, 2 lieutenants, & 1 captain which will be offset by a \$375k Federal grant which requires a 4 yr commitment but pays only for half of it. Additional promotions are planned that will result in a net patrol officer increase of 2. Increases consistent w/ Police Study recommendations. Some members believe increases not justified. SubCom to check on salary increases for assistant dog officer and parking control officers.

VOTED \$282,019 for Administration sub-budget. Unanimous

VOTED \$4,505,244 for Police contingent on satisfactory funding plan for increase from Police Director & Manager. Adopted, 7-3.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

Meetings are scheduled for March 28 (O'Connor ARTICLE 29); and April 9,12,14 -- all in the Bob O'Neill Room at the Community Safety Bldg., except 9 a.m. Saturday April 14 in Town Hall Hearing Room.

Plan is to mail Report for April Special TM next week.

Peter B. Howard, Secretary